



Joint News Release



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Corps, state agriculture dept., host educational seminar on farm chemicals use, rules at Ice Harbor Jan. 9, 2001

Burbank, Wash., (Dec. 21, 2000) — Area farmers can learn about environmental protection requirements associated with “chemigation” and “fertigation” at a free two-hour seminar to be held Jan. 9, 2001, at 9:30 a.m., at the Ice Harbor Dam visitor center. The Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Washington State Department of Agriculture are sponsoring the seminar. It is open to the public but applies most directly to the agricultural industry. Signups are not required.

Growers have found that applying chemicals and fertilizers through irrigation systems can be a useful way to tend their crops. Properly done, chemigation and fertigation are environmentally sound. The Corps is concerned about possible contamination of water resources. The Department of Agriculture regulates the sale and use of pesticides in Washington and rules concerning antipollution devices that are specific to fertigation. These factors came together as the agencies developed the seminar to improve farmers’ knowledge of these subjects.

State experts Byron Fitch and Tom Hoffmann will have a multimedia presentation and hands-on demonstration. Corps environmental compliance coordinator Wendy Alenduff and biologist Mark Halupczok will discuss possible impacts to water resources.

Caring for the environment is an ever-growing concern for everyone including federal and state agencies as well as farmers who work the land and use resources to produce agricultural commodities. As fewer farmers feed more people, they rely on processes that allow them to do their jobs more efficiently and cost effectively.

For more information, show up at the seminar or call Byron Fitch at the Department of Agriculture’s Moses Lake office (509) 766-2575, or Wendy Alenduff at the Corps’ Ice Harbor Dam (509) 543-3204.

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